THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The number of Indians attacked in Australia during 2008 and 2009 are given below:—

(i) 2008 : 17

(ii) 2009 : 94
(upto 20th November 2009)

No Indian died in any of these attacks. Majority suffered minor injuries.

(b) Figures of the exact number of people arrested in this regard are not available. However, it is reported that 7 people received convictions, after being held guilty and responsible for some of these attacks.

(c) Reports of some stray incidents of attacks continue to be received from Melbourne.

(d) As a result of a series of discussions with visiting high level Australian delegations and demarches made by Indian Mission/Posts in Australia, the Australian Government has taken various steps. They have announced a series of measures, including stricter policing in Victoria and NSW, aimed at ensuring the safety and security of Indian students in Australia. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Ms. Julia Gillard introduced in the Parliament an Amendment Bill to the ESOS Act, 2000, under which all educational institutions will be required to re-register under new and tighter criteria by 31 December, 2010. Similarly rapid audit of service providers is being undertaken by the Australian authorities, as a result of which some colleges have already been de-registered and shut down. These steps have been useful and the incidence of attacks has decreased.

Haj quota to private tour operators

787. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:
SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the basis of distribution and release of Government Haj quota and additional Haj quota this year to private tour operators; and

(b) the steps that are being taken to make it more rational and transparent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The distribution of PTOs quota for Haj-2009 was done as per the following policy:—

(i) All the old PTOs who got quota in 2008 and had been found eligible for allocation of quota this year also, have been allocated quota of minimum 50 seats provided their quota allocation during 2008 was 50 seats or more.

(ii) Those PTOs who are applying since last three Haj seasons but no quota was allocated to them last year, have been allocated a quota of minimum 50 seats provided they were otherwise eligible.

(iii) Those PTOs who are applying since last two Haj seasons but no quota was allocated to them last year have also been allocated a quota of minimum 50 seats provided they were otherwise eligible

(iv) The PTOs who had applied since last one year only *i.e.* in Haj-2008 and those fresh applicants who have applied this year could not be considered for allocation of quota for Haj-2009.

(b) Efforts are being made to make the distribution and release of private tour operators quota in a more rational and transparent manner by applying the policy decided by the Government uniformly among the old and new Private Tour Operators (PTOs) in order to ensure that there is a healthy competition among the old and new PTOs and the haj pilgrims travelling through PTOs have the choice for comfortable and economical services for their pilgrimage. All information in this regard was made public through the websites of the Haj Committee of India and Ministry of External Affairs.

Chinese claim on Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim

788. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of Chinese intrusion in Indian territory during last two years, till date;

(b) whether it is a fact that China has claimed over Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps taken by Government to redress the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) China disputes the international boundary between India and China in the Eastern Sector and claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. China does not have claims over the Indian State of Sikkim. The two countries have appointed Special Representatives to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework for a boundary settlement. There have been thirteen meetings of the Special Representatives till date. Since 1993, the two Governments have agreed to maintain peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas, without prejudice to their respective positions on the alignment of the line of actual control as well as on the boundary question. Government regularly takes up any violation along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including the Joint Working Group, the Expert Group, border personnel meetings, flag meetings and diplomatic channels. There has been no increase in the number of incidents of Chinese intrusions.